

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 6 are amended. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy shown Applicants' representative by Examiner Staicovici in the November 5 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-5 contain allowable subject matter and for the suggestions made to further advance prosecution of the application.

**I. The Claims Satisfy all Formal Requirements**

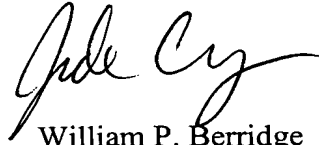
Claims 1, 2 and 6 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, as discussed in the personal interview and outlined in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2 and 6 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 7-10, which depend from claim 6, are likewise in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 18, 2003

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